

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Angelo Padula,  
Respondent**

**Complaint No. 2017-7**

**ORDER**

This matter having been heard before the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on January 9, 2018, pursuant to Commission Regulation 1011, and the Commission having considered the Complaint herein, the Respondent's Answer, and the proposed Informal Resolution and Settlement, which is incorporated by reference herein, it is hereby

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED**


THAT, the Commission approves the Informal Resolution and Settlement;

THAT, the Commission incorporates by reference herein the Findings of Fact and Admissions, and the Conclusions of Law, set forth in the Informal Resolution and Settlement;

THAT, the Respondent failed to make the required disclosures on his 2011-2016 Financial Disclosure Statements filed with the Commission in violation of Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-16 and Commission Regulation 36-14-17008; and

THAT, the Respondent is ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250).

Entered as an Order of this Commission,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Dated: January 24, 2018

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Angelo Padula,  
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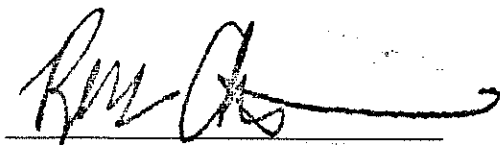
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Entered as an Order of this Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. M. A.', written over a horizontal line.

Chairperson

Dated: January 24, 2018

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Angelo Padula,  
Respondent**

**Complaint No. 2017-7**

**INFORMAL RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT**

The Respondent, Angelo Padula, and the Rhode Island Ethics Commission (“Commission”) hereby agree to a resolution of the above-referenced matter as follows:

**I. FINDINGS OF FACT & ADMISSIONS**

**A. The West Warwick Centennial Corporation**

1. The Respondent was elected to the West Warwick Town Council (“Town Council”) in November 2006 and has served continuously in said capacity.

2. On March 29, 2013, the West Warwick Centennial Corporation (“Corporation”) was created, at the directive of the Town Council, as a non-profit entity to coordinate activities and events in all local municipalities and the State in celebration of the Town of West Warwick’s (“Town”) 100-year anniversary. The celebration took place in September 2013.

3. The Corporation was incorporated by the Town Solicitor, Timothy Williamson, Esq., at the direction of the Town Council for the sole purpose of facilitating the celebration of the Town’s 100-year anniversary. Attorney Williamson served as legal counsel of the Corporation.

4. The Corporation was comprised of a five-member Centennial Committee (“Committee”) whose members were appointed by the Town Council. Two members, including the Respondent, were public officials, and one member was a municipal employee. The

remaining two members were volunteer private citizens. No member of the Committee received any remuneration for his or her involvement thereon.

5. The Committee held nine (9) meetings in 2013 and filed its agenda with the Secretary of State's Office as required of all state and municipal public bodies. The meetings were held at the Town Council chambers or the Town's Youth Center.

6. The Committee's parent entity is listed on the Secretary of State's website as the Town of West Warwick.<sup>1</sup>

7. The official address of the Corporation was 1170 Main Street, West Warwick, Rhode Island, the location of the Town Hall.

8. The Corporation had a separate telephone number and line connected to the Tax Assessor's Office in Town Hall. This telephone number was used solely for Corporation-related business such as receiving calls regarding volunteering for and donating to the centennial celebration. The person responsible for handling all such calls was Ann Coutu, the then Town Treasurer.

9. The sources of funding for the Corporation and centennial celebration were Town monies and donations from private businesses and individuals.

10. On behalf of the Corporation, Ms. Coutu opened two bank accounts and oversaw all monies received for funding the centennial celebration. Monies received from the Town and private donations were deposited into one account. The second account was created to process donations received via credit cards. Ms. Coutu provided quarterly bank statements and reports to the President of the Committee, Edward Giroux.

11. The Town Council was continuously apprised of the Committee's activities and

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<sup>1</sup> See [http://sos.ri.gov/openmeetings/index.php?page=view\\_entity&id=6146](http://sos.ri.gov/openmeetings/index.php?page=view_entity&id=6146) (last accessed January 12, 2018.)

progress with respect to arranging the centennial celebration and its finances.

12. On April 2, and 23, 2013, the Town Council, including the Respondent, voted unanimously to appropriate municipal funds totaling \$10,000 to the Corporation to cover expenses related to the centennial celebration.

13. To date, approximately \$47,000 remains unused in the Corporation's accounts. Said funds have been earmarked for scholarships for students of the West Warwick public school system and will be disbursed by the Committee at an upcoming meeting before the bank accounts are closed and the Corporation is dissolved.

14. Based on the foregoing, the Corporation and its Committee operated as a municipal body for a public purpose, namely, to coordinate and manage all facets of the Town's centennial celebration.

**B. Vice President of the West Warwick Centennial Corporation**

1. At its March 29, 2013 meeting, the Town Council appointed the Respondent as Vice President of the Corporation. The Corporation is still in existence and the Respondent resigned from his position as Vice President in December 2017.

2. On his 2013-2016 Financial Disclosure Statements ("Statements"), which were timely filed with the Commission pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-16, the Respondent failed to disclose his executive position as Vice President of the Corporation, as required by Commission Regulation 36-14-17008.

**C. Angelo Padula & Son, Inc.**

1. At all relevant times, the Respondent was the President and owner of Angelo Padula & Son, Inc. ("Padula & Son"), a junk-and salvage-yard business, located in West Warwick, Rhode Island.

2. The Respondent held an auto parts and salvage license issued by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation, and Padula & Son was subject to direct regulation by said agency.

3. On his 2014 Statement, which was timely filed with the Commission, the Respondent failed to disclose his ownership interest in Padula & Son, as required by Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-17(b)(7). On the same 2014 Statement, the Respondent also failed to disclose that Padula & Son was a business entity subject to direct regulation by a state agency, as required by § 36-14-7(b)(1). The information that the Respondent omitted was reflected in response to other questions on the same 2014 Statement.

4. The Respondent failed to disclose his position as President of and his ownership interest in Padula & Son on his 2016 Statement, which was timely filed with the Commission, as required by Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-17(b)(6), (7). On the same 2016 Statement, the Respondent also failed to disclose that Padula & Son was a business entity subject to direct regulation by a state agency, as required by § 36-14-17(b)(1). The information that the Respondent omitted was reflected in response to other questions on the same 2016 Statement.

**D. Real Estate Interests**

1. The Respondent owned real estate located at 2 Canna Street, 26 River Street, and a parcel of an Administrative Subdivision (Assessor's Plat: 38, portion of 19 and lots 21, 22, & 134) in West Warwick, Rhode Island, none of which served as his primary residence.

2. The investigation revealed that the Respondent sold his parcel of the Administrative Subdivision in March 2016.

3. The Respondent failed to disclose his ownership interest in any of these properties on his 2016 Statement, as required by Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-17(b)(3).

**E. Income**

1. The Respondent received an annual stipend in excess of \$1,000 as a member of the Town Council.
2. The Respondent failed to disclose his income as a councilman on his 2011 and 2016 Statements, which were timely filed with the Commission, as required by Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-17(b)(2).

**F. Amendments**

1. On November 9, 2017, the Respondent presented at the Commission's office and amended his Statements to reflect the omissions set forth supra.

**II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

**A. The West Warwick Centennial Corporation**

1. As a municipal elected official, the Respondent was, at all relevant times, subject to the Rhode Island Code of Ethics in Government, pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-4(1).
2. Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(a) prohibits a person subject to the Code of Ethics from having any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engaging in any business or professional activity, or incurring any obligation of any nature, which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his duties in the public interest. Furthermore, § 36-14-5(d) prohibits a person subject to the Code of Ethics from using his public office for pecuniary gain for himself or a business associate.
3. As a member of the Town Council, the Respondent voted at the April 2, and 23, 2013 Town Council meetings to appropriate municipal funds totaling \$10,000 to the Corporation, a municipal public body, to cover expenses related to the Town's centennial

celebration.

4. Based on the totality of the circumstances as set forth herein, the Ethics Commission concludes that the Respondent's votes to appropriate Town funds to the Corporation, operating as a municipal public body, do not constitute a violation of § 36-14-5(a) or (d).

5. Accordingly, this claim against the Respondent is dismissed with prejudice.

**B. Vice President of the West Warwick Centennial Corporation**

1. As a municipal elected official, the Respondent was, at all relevant times, subject to the financial disclosure mandate of Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-16.

2. On his 2013-2016 Statements filed with the Commission pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-16, the Respondent failed to disclose that he held the executive position of Vice President of the Corporation, as required by Commission Regulation 36-14-17008.

**C. Angelo Padula & Son, Inc.**

1. As a municipal elected official, the Respondent was, at all relevant times, subject to the financial disclosure mandate of Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-16.

2. On his 2014 Statement filed with the Commission, the Respondent failed to make the required disclosures relative to Padula & Son as set forth in § 36-14-17(b)(1), (7), in violation of § 36-14-16.

3. On his 2016 Statement filed with the Commission, the Respondent failed to make the required disclosures relative to Padula & Son as set forth in § 36-14-17(b)(1), (6), & (7), in violation of § 36-14-16.

**D. Real Estate Interests**

1. As a municipal elected official, the Respondent was, at all relevant times, subject



to the financial disclosure mandate of Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-16.

2. On his 2016 Statement filed with the Commission, the Respondent failed to disclose his ownership interest in 2 Canna Street, 26 River Street, and a parcel of an Administrative Subdivision (Assessor's Plat: 38, portion of 19 and lots 21, 22, & 134) in West Warwick, Rhode Island, as required by Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-17(b)(3), in violation of § 36-14-16.

#### **E. Income**

1. As a municipal elected official, the Respondent was, at all relevant times, subject to the financial disclosure mandate of Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-16.

2. On his 2011 and 2016 Statements, the Respondent failed to disclose his income as a Town Councilman, as required by Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-17(b)(2), in violation of § 36-14-16.

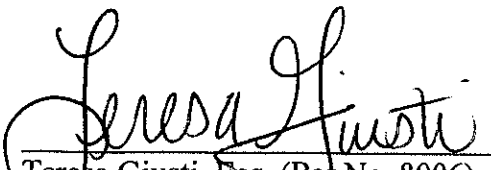
### **III. SETTLEMENT**

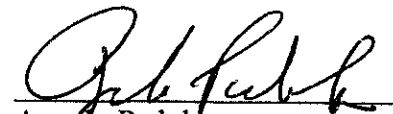
Pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties hereby agree, subject to the approval of the Commission, to the following, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-13(d) and Commission Regulation 1011:

1. The Commission shall enter an Order and Judgment that the Respondent's failure to make the required disclosures on his 2011-2016 Statements filed with the Commission violated Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-16 and Commission Regulation 36-14-17008.

2. The Respondent agrees that, pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Prosecution will recommend the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$750). The Respondent agrees to the payment of said civil penalty.

3. The above terms represent the full and complete Informal Resolution and Settlement for Complaint No. 2017-7.

  
Teresa Giusti, Esq. (Bar No. 8006)  
Commission Prosecutor  
Dated: 1/23/18

  
Angelo Padula  
Respondent  
Dated: 1-24-18